REPORT

Institution for the Blind

ONTARIO

1899

ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES

UPON THE

ONTARIO INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND

BRANTFORD

BEING FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER,

1899.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

TORONTO:
WARWICK BRO'S & RUTTER, PRINTERS, ETC., 68 AND 70 FRONT ST. WEST.
1899.

Office of the

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities, Ontario,

Parliament Buildings, Toronto, November, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to transmit herewith the Twenty-Eighth Annual Report upon the Institution for the Instruction and Education of the Blind, at Brantford, for the year ending 30th September, 1899.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

T. F. CHAMBERLAIN,
Inspector.

The Honorable J. R. Stratton, M.P.P.,
Provincial Secretary.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, BRANTFORD.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
TORONTO, November, 1899.

To His Honour The Honourable SIR OLIVER MOWAT, *Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, and Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to submit herewith the Twenty-eighth Annual Report upon the Institution for the Education of the Blind, at Brantford, for the year ending 30th September, 1899.

I have the honour to be,
Your Honour's most obedient servant,

J. R. STRATTON,
Provincial Secretary.

THE INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting my report upon the work of this Institution for the year ending September 30th, 1899, it is not my desire to make any lengthy remarks in reference to its management and the course of instruction imparted to the pupils.

The very full reports of the Principal, Instructors and Examiners which are submitted give in detail the work done during the year.

The past history of this Institution entitles it to a foremost position with similar institutions in Canada, and in other countries.

The Principal and the Teachers have, with undiminished zeal, applied their energies to the utmost in furthering the interests of the pupils attending the school.

There have been but few changes in the teaching staff and officers during the past year, and those changes have not in any way militated against the interests of the Institution.

The farm proper yielded its usual returns, although, owing to the dry season, the potatoes and other vegetables were a short crop.

The Officers, Teachers and Instructors have diligently discharged their several duties and have at all times been courteous and attentive in rendering me every assistance in connection with the Institution.

During the first part of the year diphtheria made its appearance among the children and caused considerable anxiety to the officers. About 150, including officers and pupils were treated with anti-toxin, which seemed to have a good effect in preventing the spread of the disease. This was followed by another epidemic in the form of "la grippe," which caused a good deal of sickness. The Principal was prostrated with pneumonia for some weeks and unable to attend to his duties, although the pupils did not suffer in consequence, as Mr. Wickens attended not only to his duties as teacher but performed the duties of principal until Mr. Dymond recovered.

The moral training and instruction imparted to the pupils during the year was carefully attended to, the Roman Catholic children receiving the same attention from teachers and officers of their own persuasion as in the case of the Protestant children.

A circulating library has been established for the benefit of the blind throughout the Province, and is of great advantage, not only to those who have attended the Institution, but to those who have never had the advantage of attending a school for the blind.

Very satisfactory progress has been made by the pupils in music, piano tuning, literature, type-writing, willow work, fancy work, cooking, etc., as will be seen by the reports submitted herewith.

The average attendance of pupils has been about the same as in past years. A few pupils have been admitted from the out-lying provinces upon special conditions. The yearly per capita expense was $8.16 less than for the previous year.

The domestic management of the Institution has been carefully attended to by the matron and others in charge under her.

The building and grounds have been kept in a good state of repair and present an attractive appearance. The usual repairs to class-rooms, pianos, maps, etc., were made during the vacation.

The appended tables and statistics give full information as to the pupils and their management.

Inspection.

I made an inspection of this Institution on the 9th September.

The building has been renovated during the summer vacation and made ready for the reception of the pupils on re-opening on the 13th inst.

The grounds, as well as the outbuildings, have been kept in good condition, and the work done upon the farm has been better than in past years. Owing to the dryness of the season the root crop was not up to our expectations.

A new cooking range has been placed in the kitchen, the old one being defective and worn out.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

BRANTFORD, October 1st, 1899.

T. F. CHAMBERLAIN, ESQ., M.D.,
Inspector.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my report for the year ending September 30th, 1899.

The session which was brought to a close on the 14th of June was, in many respects, a trying one. At its very commencement a visitation of diphtheria was the cause for some anxiety, and, of course, elaborate precautions against the spread of the disease. These included a very free use of anti-toxin, some 150 officers, domestics and pupils being inoculated, with the most satisfactory results. Only eight (all pupils) were attacked and not a single case occurred to any one submitted, before symptons developed, to anti-toxine treatment. I am not prepared to say for how long a period the effects of the anti-toxin would remain in the system, but the above fact should certainly encourage its use by all those on whom the responsibility for the health and safety of a large number of persons, as in this instance, rests. The ameliorating influence of the remedy on cases already under medical care, in their early stage, was also very observable. The progress of the malady appeared to be almost immediately arrested after inoculation. Consequently, all our cases but one assumed a mild form. In the exceptional instance the pupil had withheld the fact from her officers that she was tronbled with a sore-throat until some forty-eight hours had elapsed, and she suffered severely for her lack of prudence. The pupils, who were kept informed day by day of the course of affairs, behaved admirably, and showed no symptoms of panic or needless alarm at the presence among them of so unwelcome a visitant. It may also be noted that no inconvenient effects attended the use of the anti-toxin in any case. The Institution did not escape from the epidemic of la grippe which prostrated so many of both the old and the young during the past winter. Among the pupils its effects were not serious and a brief absence from classes only was necessary. But this occurred to a considerable number and interference with the regularity of class work was inevitable. In the latter part of December the Principal was attacked and the complaint developed into one of bronchial pneumonia, the result being his inability to take any active part in the work of the Institution for three months. He desires in mentioning, as in duty bonnd, the cause of so protracted a period of incapacity, to bear publicly his testimony to the admirable manner in which the acting-principal, Mr. W. B. Wickens, and the whole staff of officers co-operated in preserving discipline and effectively carrying on the daily routine of the Institution. I shall do the pupils, too, only justice in saying that their conduct indicated a desire that no needless trouble should be given to those in charge under such unusual circumstances.

Looking back over the session, and reflecting on the causes that might have perilled the efficiency of the work, I feel that the record we are able to present is one calling for thankfulness and justifying congratulation.

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION.

In my last report I was able to refer with pleasnre to the fact that instruction in the contents of the Holy Scriptures had become part of our regular daily curriculum. This had been made all the easier inasmuch as our teachers, of various religious com-

munions, are all persons of large experience, and possess the discretion it brings with it. They have, too, I have reason to believe, a devout reverence for the Sacred Word, and thus are capable of making its study both interesting and profitable to their pupils. As a consequence the way in which the several Bible classes acquitted themselves at the examination in June was most creditable and encouraging. Our staff is so constituted that no difficulty has been experienced in providing for our Roman Catholic pupils the same privileges, in this regard, that others have enjoyed. They have a member of their own church for their teacher, and use the Douay version of the Bible with such references as are consistent with their belief. The amount of information gained by this class during the session was very noticeable. We have now increased to a full lesson space the time daily devoted to Bible study. It takes its place first in the classes of the day.

Type-writing.

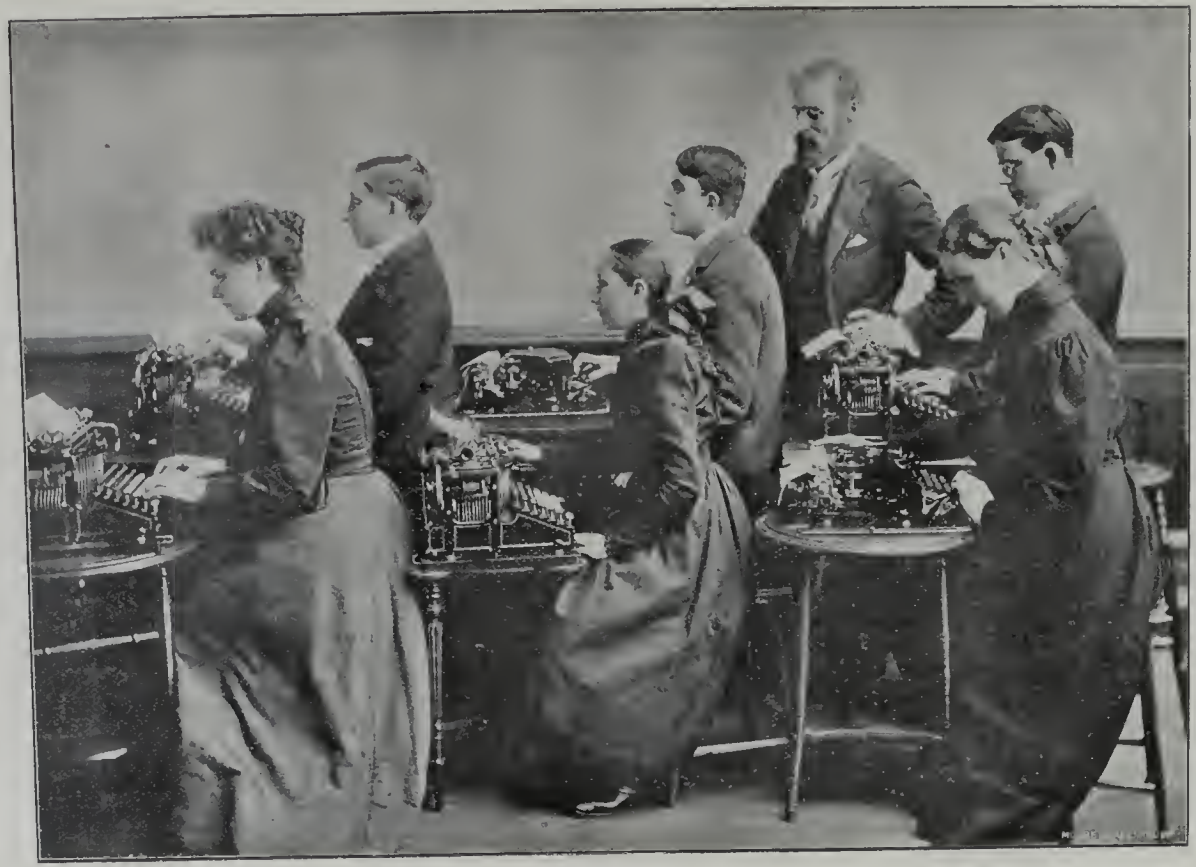
In last year's report attention was drawn to the introduction of type-writing as an addition to our curriculum. Several pupils made good progress in this direction last session, and, with the purchase of three additional machines, and some re-organization of classes, we are now able to have sixteen pupils under instruction at one time, and hope to have from thirty to forty fairly competent type-writers at the end of the current session.

Circulating Library for the Blind.

The action of the Dominion government in securing legislation which provides for the free transmission of embossed books for the Blind by the mails, has been generously supplemented by a vote of the Ontario Legislature of a sum of money to be applied to the purchase of a circulating library for the benefit of the adult blind of the Province. Books suited to their several needs are now *en route;* a room has been selected for the purpose, and we hope very soon to anncunce that all is ready for business. The system required varies with the surrounding conditions. Persons who have been educated at this Institution will usually retain the use of the Point-print method, or dotted cipher. But a large proportion of the Blind have lost their vision at a more or less advanced age and, by them, the point-print is seldom attainable. But, in the old English, or "Moon" system, any one may find learning to read easy, that is any one who has, previously to becoming blind, learned to read ordinary type. One intelligent blind student of the "Moon" lately asserted that he had learned to read with it in half an hour. The alphabet in "Moon" characters is appended to every volume published, and only practice is required to read with reasonable facility. The pleasure experienced by those who have, in losing their vision in middle life, or old age, been cut off from the enjoyment and comfort the ability to read affords, in finding that the means for this profitable and pleasurable employment of their time still exists, amply repays the little trouble conducting such a library entails. A moderate sum will be required annually to supply additional literature of the class that may be found to be most in demand.

Pupil Population.

I have pointed out before now that the time at which this report is compiled so soon after the vacation, does not permit of a fair showing being made of the pupil population. It inevitably happens that quite a number have not returned at the end of the month, when the Session has only opened on the thirteenth of September or thereabouts of the same month. We have now on the register 120, of whom sixty-three are males and fifty-seven females. The past session closed with a pupil population of 134, and I shall now account for the difference in these figures.



THE TYPE-WRITING CLASS.

The pupils who have retired or who have not reported themselves this session are as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Graduated from willow shop	2	..	2
Graduated from piano-tuning department	4	..	4
Found employment in factory (partial course)	1	..	1
Left or about leaving Ontario	1	2	3
Graduated in industrial work (advanced in other classes)	..	4	4
Detained at home for operations or ill-health	2	2	4
Excluded (imbecile)	..	1	1
" (for cause)	1	.	1
" (fair vision)	.	3	3
Detained at home for domestic reasons	1	1	2
	12	13	25

This shows the number of pupils of last session who have returned to be 109, represented by 57 males and 52 females. To these have to be added two re-admisssons of former pupils who were not on the register of 1898-9, one male and one female, and nine new pupils, five males and four females as follows :

Ages	Males.	Females.	Total.
Thirty years	..	1	1
Twenty-three	1	..	1
Twenty-two	1	..	1
Twenty-one	1	.	1
Fifteen	1	..	1
Twelve	..	1	1
Ten	..	1	1
Seven	1	..	1
Six	..	1	1
	5	4	9

The complete return will therefore stand as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pupils of 1898-9	57	52	109
Re-admission of former pupils	1	1	2
New pupils	5	4	9
	63	57	120

This is just one less than was shown by the return at the same period last year. With those who are temporarily detained, all or nearly all of whom may be expected to report themselves at the New Year, if not earlier, and cases that are now the subjects of enquiry or correspondence, it is probable the numbers of last year will he nearly or quite sustained. I may repeat the opinion, however, expressed in former reports, that the supply of those eligible for the advantages of the Institution is gradually lessening, and that, too, irrespective of the increase of population. The causes for this probahly are :— (1) Prompt attention to the condition of the eyes in the earliest days of the child's existence, (this has heen the subject of legislation in the States and Great Britain); (2) The progress of ophthalmic science, and the establishment of infirmaries for eye treatment attached to our principal hospitals ; (3) increased intelligence on the part of the public, leading to recourse being had to skilled oculists, and the discrediting of quacks ; and (4) greater discrimination in regard to the encouragement of immigration. In this last particular I have noticed a remarkable change of late years. Applications to admit immigrants as pupils who, after a comparatively short residence in Canada had become hlind,

were thon frequent, now they are seldom heard of. It is only of late years that attention has been particularly called to the necessity for remedial treatment under the first head. But the fact that of the pupils in attendance at the time of the oculist's visit in 1898, one hundred and thirty four in number, no less than twenty-three cases, or 17 per cent, were attributable to neglect of the precautions suggested, is a matter calling for grave consideration. The tampering with the delicate organs of vision, the waste of time and loss of money involved in dependence upon quacks, either of the piously deluded or purely mercenary order, or a combination of both, should be rigorously suppressed. In connection with the practice of the skilled oculist it often happens that, if only a partial measure of success attends his efforts, he secures for the patient such a measure of vision as suffices for the ordinary duties of life, and thus supplies a reason for non-attendance at an Institution. It may be remarked, however, that, in not a few instances, surgical treatment and education proceed concurrently. Pupils are examined by the specialist in the latter half of the session and arrangements are made,—parental approval being obtained—for treatment during the vacation or at such times as may be most convenient.

The Literary Classes.

With the exception of the Bible classes and type-writing already referred to there is not much that is new to report in regard to literary work. The type-writers constitute the senior writing class, and are taught by the senior literary teacher, Mr. W. B. Wickens. The retirement of rather a large number of older and more advanced pupils has been well met by a laudable ambition on the part of their successors in the ranks, and the steady perseverance of their instructors. The instruction of the blind involves an amount of painstaking effort and attention to individual capacities that only a most conscientious devotion to duty can supply. The reports of the examiners of the literary classes deals with the progress of the several classes in detail.

The Music Classes.

The music classes have suffered like the literary branch from the same cause. This has been especially true of the male pupils. Most of our male music pupils take up piano tuning, and, when they are, or think themselves competent, to graduate from the latter branch, they are willing to sacrifice something on the piano or organ in order to begin life for themselves. This is a natural and, within limits, a laudable motive. But it detracts somewhat from the reputation of the Institution for turning out finished musical students which it might otherwise enjoy However, we have no cause to be ashamed of the work done in any year in this department. In my last report I mentioned a youth who had then but recently graduated, as having passed examinations with much credit at the Toronto Conservatory of Music. He has since taken the second examination at Trinity College, Toronto, for Bachelor of Music, and will, doubtles, in due course be entitled to add the desired "Mus. Bach." to his name. Two of our female pupils, one of whom was named as having taken the second examination in theory last year, have this year passed the intermediate in theory at the Conservatory with first-class honors, and a third much younger student took the junior in theory very successfully. It is not alone however, in these specific results that the beneficial effects of our musical course of instruction are to found. For obvious reasons the use of music as a profession, or public exhibitions of musical talent, are often denied to the blind student. Especially is this the case with female pupils. But even ordinary musical attainments give almost unlimited pleasure to their possessor, as well as to others, and this is especially the case with those who have been members of the vocal class and also trained in congregational singing.

Piano Tuning.

Where the necessary physical qualifications exist this is, without doubt, the most profitable branch of study for our male pupils. In my report for 1897 I described the efforts made year by year to increase the effectiveness of this department. Hitherto our instructor has been non-resident and attended two days in the week only. Too much can-

not be said in praise of the interest taken by Mr. W. G. Raymond, who filled the office of piano-tuning instructor for some eighteen years in the progress of the pupils while here, and their welfare after graduating. Being well known in the trade Mr Raymond was often able, by an introduction to a manufactory, to give the retiring pupil a good start in life. He secured, too, in this way, the access of blind tuners to the good-will of employers, to whom the idea of a blind man tuning a piano had been strange. To-day, graduates of this Institution are to be found in most of the principal piano factories in Ontario, and some in very lucrative positions. In the art of tuning, too, Mr. Raymond had a high reputation, and as he had received his first lessons in the Institution, he was in every respect closely identified with us. His appointment to the responsible position of post master of the city of Brantford has now, however, severed the bond of official relationship. This has given an opportunity for another step onward, in the appointment of a resident Instructor, who will give his exclusive attention to the pupils of the tuning class and be able to superintend not only their lessons but their practice. In the work of repairing, too, I anticipate great advantage from this arrangement. Mr. Jas. A. Hayter, the new instructor, is recommended by some of the first firms in the trade as exceptionally well qualified for both tuning and repairing. He will join us at an early day. The success of the tuning class graduates generally has been most encouraging. I believe all are doing well who deserve to do well, and my information of failures from personal defects comprises very few indeed.

The Willow Shop.

I have much pleasure, while submitting the report of the Trade Instructor, in noticing the useful feature in the past season's work to which Mr. Truss particularly alludes, The means of recreation possessed by blind lads are necessarily limited ; they have not the out-of-school tasks of sighted students, and a lack of occupation is not conducive to good order. The youths in question are mostly of from fourteen to fifteen years of age and full of life and activity. Many of them will not ultimately take the work-shop course, but, meanwhile, they are putting in a certain measure of spare time very usefully and profitably under the immediate supervision of a firm but kindly teacher and acquiring a knowledge that may some day be turned to good account. The information recently received from former pupils who are wholly or partially occupied in the willow and rattan work industry has been very satisfactory. The Instructor reports as follows :—

Trade Instructor's Report.

To the Principal,—

Sir,—I have the honor to submit my report upon the operations of the workshop during the year ending September 30th, 1899.

The session has been one of fair progress on the part of the pupils engaged in learning rattan work, willow work, and cane-chair seating.

The forming of a large class of boys to learn cane seating is perhaps the most prominent feature of shopwork during the session. Quite a number of these youths are now able to repair cane seated chairs ; some of them are now learning to make toy chairs, toy-cradles, etc., etc., upon models devised for them.

The ordinary work of the session closed with the graduation of two young men who received outfits adapted to their special needs and requirements. Fair success is attending their efforts to gain a livelihood by industry and self-help.

The pupils who were supplied with material in order that they might be employed profitably during the vacation have returned very much encouraged with their success in making sales of the work they turned out.

(Signed), Thomas Truss,
Trade Instructor.

Oct. 1, 1899.

Sewing and Knitting.

These classes have long maintained a high state of efficiency under their respective teachers, and knitting affords an attractive employment to a large number of the female pupils in other than school hours. The knowledge obtained of the sewing machine and its various attachments, with all of which the girls become familiar, makes the help of the blind daughter invaluable in the domestic circle.

The Cooking Class.

This class was conducted with much spirit and interest during the past session. The progress and attainments of the pupils are mentioned in a very complimentary sense by the Literary Examiners who witnessed the class in practical operation. Without structural alterations or additions, it is not possible to do full justice to our efforts in this direction. But the best use possible is made of the space and means at our disposal. The retirement of Mrs. Murray, the teacher of the class, who was also directress of the Kindergarten, has been followed by the appointment of Miss Winnifred Messmore to the vacancy thus created, and the credentials that lady brings with her give me the highest confidence in her qualifications.

Health.—Discipline.

I have already referred to the appearance of diphtheria at the commencement of the past session and the means adopted to meet it. Since that time the general health of the institution has given no cause for anxiety. The pupils who have returned, subsequent to the late vacation, have presented a very healthy appearance. One case of sickness, ending, I deeply regret to say fatally, has, however, to be recorded. Early in the past session one of our senior male pupils showed symptoms of constitutional delicacy. Walter O. Prittie was a young man of much promise, and greatly esteemed both by his fellow pupils and his officers. He had made excellent progress in the musical department, and was prepared to graduate from the piano-tuning class. The disease, which proved to be of a tubercular nature, did not yield to treatment, and on the 3rd of April he peacefully passed away.

I may also record here the death of George Henry Kerr (non-resident), and for many years a faithful servant of the Institution as teamster. He had been frequently incapacitated for work by the disease which ultimately proved fatal, but this was cheerfully met in the hope that the disorder might be overcome and a worthy man spared to his family and employers. The former have had the warm sympathy of all who knew him here.

Discipline has been well maintained during the year. The conduct of the pupils generally has left little to be desired. Youthful minds will sometimes betray a too sportive tendency, and erratic youths have to be taught that the way of the transgressors is hard, or at least can be made uncomfortable, but, as a rule, the penalties of misconduct can be administered with a light hand, and it is hoped are always based on reasonable principles.

Farms.—Grounds, Etc.

The protracted drought during the past summer, covering a large district in the south-western counties of Ontario, has affected our farm productiveness very seriously. For three months, just in the growing time, the rainfall was limited to three or four showers falling with long intervals between. During this period there was little or no development and, when a change came, it was too late to produce decided results. It will follow, I fear as a consequence, that our stock of potatoes will run short and have to be supplemented by purchases outside. Last year we had quite a large quantity to sell. How far our root crop will meet the demand has yet to be ascertained.

The grounds have increased in beauty from year to year, although, for the last few years, the additions made have been very trifling. I regret that we have no person specially appointed to keep the ornamental part of the estate in better order. The farm

THE KNITTING CLASS.

hands are at their bnsiest just when the trees and evergreens most r« quire attention. Nor do they, as a rule, possess the particular qualifications the circumstances demand. With such assistance our snrronndings would be as neat and trim as they deserve to be.

Improvements.

No improvements of any importance have been required in the buildings dnring the past year, with the exception of the stsnding demand for the extension of the east wing, withont which the Institution can never be complete. I went so fnlly into the details of this matter in my last report that a repetition of the argument is nnnecessary. But I must urge a reperusal of it on all whom it may concern. The fact that to-day, at the very beginning of the session, and after the loss at the late vacation of rather more than the nsual number of female pnpils, we, nevertheless, have our full complement in the girls' dormitories, with the prospect of additions in the near future, shows that, on that ground, enlargement is still much needed. The other causes for such an improvement are as numerous and as weighty as ever. Our experience of the urgent need for greater accommodation dnring the presence of the outbreak of diphtheria, already referred to, was painful, and had not the epidemic been checked, every female pupil would have bsen more or less imperilled. Health, discipline and propei facilities for work are all involved in the proposed extension.

The necessity for conveying pianos to the npper part of the buildmg is a freqnent sonrce of difficulty and even danger. It is most desirable that this should be overcome by the erection of a hoist or elevator, and I hope provision may be made for this in the next estimates.

The roads through the grounds are in bad condition, not having had any substantial repairs since they were constructed. It would be desirable to have them put in order under good advice from the government expert in that department.

Visitors.— Acknowledgments.

The Institution is a great objcct of interest to visitors to Brantford, and they avail themselves of the opportunity afforded for seeing it, in large numbers. No limitations are imposed on the inspection of the classes within school hours. In the month of May we had the pleasure of receiving the school teachers of the county, who, as in some former years, held one session of their annual convention in our hall. The speaker of the evening was Professor Hutton, of Toronto University, who gave an interesting address on "Oxford Types." These re-nnions of the educationists of the district, who were well represented on the occasion, are as delightful as they are intellectually profitable. Our relations with our city neighbors of all classes continne to be of the most agreeable character, and to the clergy and others who give ns special help and attention my warm acknowledgments are once more due.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. DYMOND,
Principal.

ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

BRANTFORD, 1899.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

(Embossed books for the blind pass free by the mails.)

RULES.

Any blind person in the Province of Ontario may apply to be placed on the list of borrowers.

Applicants, on writing to the Principal, will receive a paper to be filled up with name and address; also a form of certificate to be signed by a clergyman or public official, by way of identification. From ex-pupils this certificate will not be required.

Books will be mostly in the New York point, and in the English or "moon" type. The latter meets the case of persons who have become blind after attaining middle age or who have not learned the point system.

Borrowers may have the use of one book per month, and must return it within a month from the date of borrowing, unless an extension of the time is granted on request.

Books will be mailed in strong wrappers. The wrapper should be preserved and, when the book is returned, the wrapper can be reversed and a label with address will be shown.

Damage to books or neglect to return them within the time specified, will lead to removal from the list of borrowers.

In the event of infectious disease of any kind existing in a house inhabited by a borrower no books should be borrowed during the period of infection. If the disease appears after borrowing, the Principal should be notified of the fact when the book is returned.

A. H. DYMOND,
Principal.

ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

I.—Attendance.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Attendance for portion of year ending September 30, 1872	20	14	34
" for year ending 30th September, 1873	44	24	68
" " " 1874	66	46	112
" " " 1875	89	50	139
" " " 1876	84	64	148
" " " 1877	76	72	148
" " " 1878	91	84	175
" " " 1879	100	100	200
" " " 1880	5	93	198
" " " 1881	103	98	201
" " " 1882	94	73	167
" " " 1883	89	72	160
" " " 1884	71	69	140
" " " 1885	86	74	160
" " " 1886	93	71	164
" " " 1887	93	62	155
" " " 1888	94	62	156
" " " 1889	99	58	167
" " " 1890	95	69	164
" " " 1891	91	67	158
" " " 1892	85	70	155
" " " 1893	90	64	154
" " " 1894	84	66	150
" " " 1895	82	68	150
" " " 1896	72	69	141
" " " 1897	76	73	149
" " " 1898	74	73	147
" " " 1899	77	71	148

II.—Age of pupils.

	No.
Six years	1
Seven "	3
Eight "	4
Nine "	6
Ten "	4
Eleven "	7
Twelve "	8
Thirteen "	8
Fourteen "	10
Fifteen "	6
Sixteen "	14
Seventeen "	10
Eighteen years	9
Nineteen "	5
Twenty "	6
Twenty-one years	5
Twenty-two "	9
Twenty-three "	8
Twenty-four "	1
Twenty-five "	1
Over twenty-five years	23
Total	148

V.—Cities and counties from which pupils were received during the official year ending 30th September, 1899.

County or city.	Male	Female	Total
District of Algoma	1	2	3
City of Belleville		1	1
County of Brant		2	2
City of Brantford	1	2	3
County of Bruce	2	3	5
" Carleton			
" Dufferin	1		1
" Dundas			
" Durham	1	1	2
" Elgin	1	1	2
" Essex	2	6	8
" Frontenac			
" Glengarry			
" Grenville		1	1
" Grey	4		4
City of Guelph			
County of Haldimand		1	1
" Haliburton			
" Halton			
City of Hamilton	2	7	9
County of Hastings			
" Huron	2	1	3
City of Kingston	3		3
County of Kent	2		2
" Lambton	2	1	3
" Leeds	2	2	4
" Lanark	1		1
" Lennox			
" Lincoln			
City of London	1		1
County of Middlesex	2	4	6
District of Muskoka	1		1
District of Nipissing		2	2
County of Norfolk	2	1	3
" Northumberland		1	1
" Ontario	1	4	5
City of Ottawa	4	1	5
County of Oxford	1	4	5
" Peel			
" Perth			
" Peterborough	1		1
" Prince Edward			
" Prescott	1		1
" Renfrew	1	2	3
" Russell	1		1
City of St. Catharines			
" St. Thomas		1	1
" Stratford			
County of Simcoe	6	1	7
" Stormont	1		1
City of Toronto	17	13	30
County of Victoria	2		2
" Waterloo	2		2
" Welland			
" Wellington	2	1	3
" Wentworth		1	1
" York		3	3
*Quebec	1	1	2
North-West Territory			
*Manitoba	1		1
*British Columbia	1		1
Total	74	73	147

*On payment.

REPORT OF SURGEON.

T. F. Chamberlain, Esq.,
Inspector Public Charities.

My Dear Sir,—I beg to again present the annual report of the physician to the Ontario Institute for the Blind for the year ending September 30th, 1899. The general health for the year has been good. Principal Dymond was confined to the house for some weeks in the early part of the year with a severe attack of influenza complicated with a sharp broncho-pneumonia. By the aid of a wonderful physique and by the able assistance of J. W. Digby, Esq., M.D., wo were enabled to baffle the disease and in the early spring he was restored to perfect health.

In October and November there was an outbreak of diphtheria of a mild type. In all there were six cases and all made good recoveries. Antitoxin was used in treatment and also as an immunizing agent with remarkable effect.

In March of 1899 an old and faithful employee, Henry Kerr, was obliged to stop work and died in May of acute tuberculosis.

With these few exceptions the health of the officers, pupils and employees has been exceptional, the pupils particularly thriving because of tho regular life and careful management of the Institution.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
John A. Marquis,
Acting Pyhsician.

Brantford, October 8th, 1899.

LITERARY EXAMINERS' REPORT.

To Dr. Chamberlain,

Inspector of Prisons, Charities, etc., for Ontario.

Sir,—We have the honor to submit for your consideration the following report of the results of the examination of the literary classes in the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind at Brantford for the year 1898-9.

The examination was held on the 6th, 7th and 8th of June, a little later than usual The weather was fine but warm and the spacious grounds aronnd the Institution were looking their very best. Within, everything was, as usual, clean and orderly and the tone and management all that could be desired. The examination this year presented some novel features deserving of a passing notice here and which are a concession to certain demands of the "new" education. In addition to the purely literary work, classes were examined in Domestic Science, Typewriting, etc.

The results were as follows:—

(a) Mr. Wicken's Classes.

I. *Arithmetic.*—Class B.—A bright active class of boys and girls who have been during the year, learning all about fractions and have mastered them fairly well. They certainly do nnderstand their work and do it with speed and accuracy. Of course all the work is done mentally and an examiner has to use judgment in giving questions that involve the principles under consideration but do not contain quantities of such magnitude as would make them too difficult for mental operations. The questions given would be considered too difficult for mental arithmetic for pupils of the same age in our public schools, yet these blind pupils seemed to regard them as fair.

II. *Geography.*—Class A.—The work of this class in this subject was Asia. The pupils have a very correct and comparatively full knowledge of the character of the continent, the countries that compose it, its peoples, their modes of government, religions and customs The productions of the different countries have been well mastered and also the exports of each. An examiner can easily see that the knowledge is new, late changes and late occurrences in the countries have been noted. The political geography of Asia is well understood, and some of its features seemed decidedly interesting to them. The average of the seventeen pupils was 83 per cent.

III. *Writing.*—Class A.—To test their ability to write legibly and to arrange their writing in proper order, the pupils were assigned a business letter and some business forms. The writing is legible. Of course it must be judged by a standard of its own, for it differs in so many ways from the writing of seeing pupils that to judge it by the standards we adopt in determining the character of the latter would be unfair. The form in which the correspondence was got up showed careful teaching.

IV. *Type Writing.*—A class of four young ladies. They have attained a very fair speed and write a very fair copy. The typewriter seems to be very popular. Its use gives the pupil a degree of independent action that is beneficial, apart from the benefit derived from the ability to use it.

V. *Grammar.*—Class B. Nine members—Limit: Etymology, Simple Analysis, Parts of speech. Class has a satisfactory knowledge of words and their classification. Knows the parts of speech and their inflections and can analyze simple sentences readily and parse with facility.

VI. *Reading.*—Class A. Eleven in class. Point Print. Selections from Bryant The reading is very fairly done with good expression and generally correct emphasis Four or five excel.

VII. *Bible Class.*—Boys, A. Eighteen in nnmber. The Old Testament was pretty thoroughly reviewed. They showed a satisfactory knowledge of the Pentatench, Judges, Rnth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, etc. They also know something of the Maccabean rule and of Greek and Roman domination.

(*b*) Miss Gillen's Classes.

I. *Geography.*—Class B.—The class was examined pretty thoroughly on the geography of the United States and South America with a slight review of the West Indies. We made the United States the chief part of the examination, and found they were able to state with great accuracy the positions of all the States, their chief towns, the water system of each and the topography of each State generally. The imports and exports and their relations commercially to us are well understood. The same system was pursued with South America with excellent results.

II. *Canadian History.*—This is quite a large class, 26 in all. Their limit is from 1763 to the present time. The class has mastered very well the chief events of this period. Their answers are correct but brief. No important event has been overlooked, and many of the pupils have a pretty good idea of the chief men in Canadian history. With the great majority of the class I am sure Miss Gillen must have a very pleasant time, as they seem to appreciate her efforts.

III. *Type Writing.*—Miss Gillen has one pupil in this subject. She did very good work. When she gets the confidence, that practice is sure to bring, she will do very well.

IV. *Bible Class A.*—This class is composed of eighteen senior girls. They have pursued a very thorough course in Bible study, comprehending in part, the history of the Bible, its principal manuscripts, principal versions, a sketch of Jewish history ; the books of the Bible and their authors, and a very complete study of the life of Christ as contained in the Gospels. The tone of the class is excellent, becoming the subject taught and showing the influence of a wise, careful and judicious teacher. There can be no question of the utility of this knowledge if considered merely from a literarly standpoint. While the lessons drawn from the lives of the greatest of men and their teaching must have a benefical moral effect.

V. *Arithmetic.*—Class 6.—14 in class. Limit: Definitions, tables, examples from these and problems Pupils know definitions and tables well and can solve practical problems based on the latter with very fair facility and accuracy. Good tone.

VI. *English Grammar.*—Class A.—Class of fourteen. Limit: History of English language, Review of principal divisions of grammar, False Syntax, Synonyms The members of this class evinced a satisfactory knowledge of the history of the English tongue from the date of the Venerable Bede down, the various changes it has undergone, the influx and influence of foreign elements, its usefulness, force and range as a vehicle of thought at the present time. Several rather difficult passages were analyzed and the words parsed. The result, as a whole, was very satisfactory.

VII. *Writing.*—Class D. A large class. Simple words and sentences. There is quite a number of good writers in the class and their work is legible and done with facility.

VIII. *English History.*—Twenty-five pupils. Limit of work : From the end of the "Wars of the Roses" to the "Revolution," 1688. The examination was thorough and rather minute, embracing most of the principal events, the principal men, the advance of literature, the changes in religion, manners and customs, and the constitutional changes that distinguished that eventful period. The answering was generally good, prompt and accurate, and indicated that much time and care had been devoted to the instruction of the class

IX. *English Literature.*—Eighteen in class, the most advanced pupils of the Institution. Except in relation to Shakespeare the examination this year was confined to the writers of the 19th century. Something of the lives of the principal authors and a brief notice of their most noted productions were gone over. Longfellow's "Hyperion," and Coleridge's "Cruise of the Ancient Mariner" had been particularly studied. The Shakesperian play this year was "Julius Cæsar." Incidentally the other Roman plays were touched upon. Of Julius Cæsar the pupils evinced a satisfactory knowledge. They were

THE COOKING CLASS.

able to give a synopsis of the drama, to explain the plot, describe the chief characters with the parts they took, and to quote the most striking passages throughout. The marks in the tabulated statement show how well and thoroughly the work was done.

(c) Miss Walsh's Classes.

I. *Arithmetic.*—Class A. There are twelve pupils in this class, five boys and seven girls. The standard of work for the class has been lowered, wisely we think, but the character of the work done and the general tone of the class is quite up to that of previous years. Their work now consists of problems involving multiples, measures and fractions; questions on pointing and compnting, and the different practical applications of percentage. The computations were made very quickly, probably an average of two and a half minutes for each problem, yet no one was hnrried, bnt every pupil had all the time he required for the solution of the questions. The class made an average of over 75 per cent. The examination was in every respect satisfactory.

II. *Grammar.*—Class C. This is the third class in grammar, there being two higher. They were examined in the principles of grammar, parsing, analysis and the correction of errors. The result was very satisfactory. Omitting a couple whom, owing to extreme deafness, it was quite difficult to examine, and who, on this account, may have received fewer marks than they deserved, the class made an average of 82 per cent. We have recommended the use of the divisions of the verb as followed in public schools.

III. *Physiology.*—The teacher has displayed much judgment in the teaching of this class of girls and young women The ordinary matters taken up in the public school in connection with physiology and hygiene have been thoroughly mastered, and in addition many points of practical value in everyday life have been dwelt upon and so interested have the pupils become in this subject that they have taken down the teacher's remarks in note books which, in the absence of a text-book, will afford them much interesting and profitable reading npon matters pertaining to their physical well-being.

IV. *Bible Study.*—This class is composed entirely of Roman Catholics, seven boys and nine girls. One young lady was absent through illness. This year's work had been the Gospel of St. Matthew. We took up in turn the parables, miracles, beatitudes and commandments. The spirit of the class, as a whole, is very pleasant to see. The study has evidently been made pleasant as well as profitable, and is very much liked by the majority of the students. The accuracy with which passages are quoted, the parables explained, the miracles described was very creditable to the teacher and pupils. Ten answered every question asked. We think this study will prove one of the most profitable to the pupils, supplying in the very best way the place of a Sabbath school to the blind.

V. *Geography* —Class D. Twenty-five pupils. Limit: Ontario in detail, counties, and physical features. Their knowledge of the work was extremely accnrate. Not a definition was missed. The intimate acqnaintance they showed with tho water system, the railways and the counties, cities and towns of Ontario would shame most classes in the public schools. On the dissected map they traced rapidly with their fingers the railways, passing up and down the lines, and naming every important station on the way. A county is asked for. They quickly find it, remove it from its fellows, and rattle off the county town and all the other important places in it. An average of 81% was made.

VI. *Reading.*—Class B. Two divisions, one using the 4th and the other the 6th Reader. Those in the 4th reader with much facility and fluency and with taste and good expression. The other group contains some defective members who are not quite so apt. That they had been carefully trained goes without saying.

VII. *Writing.*—Class C. Sixteen members in the class mostly beginners. They do as well as can be expected under the circnmstances. Marked an average of 48%.

Mr. McLean's Classes.

I. *Grammar.*—Class D. This is quite a large class, and one of very varied ability. A few are quite new to the class, and a conple of others mentally weak. Taking the class as a whole and eliminating those referred to, the work is very good. Formal grammar,

as juniors learn it, has been carefully taught. The tone of the class is good, there being quite an amount of enthusiasm manifested, and certainly a desire to do well in the examination.

II. *Reading*.—Class C. There are five different books used in this class, and a very much larger number of subdivisions of the pupils, owing to their being at different places in the same book. Most of them read very evenly, giving the proper expression. The voices of nearly all are very musical, but very few having any of those nasal or gutteral tones which so sadly mar reading. The pupils have not learned their lessons by rote. Even if they had, our mode of examining would prevent their deriving any advantage from it. The spelling is very good.

3. *Writing*.—Class B. The pupils were given some capital letters, small letters, numerals and a few quotations to write. The work done was very creditable.

IV. *Type-writing*.—Two young men take this subject with Mr. McLean. They wrote to our dictation, and under our observation, several things, such as a letter, a stanza of poetry, etc. The result was very good and fairly free from errors of note.

V. *Bible Study*.—Boys' Class B. We examined these twenty boys on the Life of Christ, taking up all the principal events recorded in the Scriptures. In memory work we found they knew the names of the Books of the Bible, the Commandments, the beatitudes, the first chapter of John's Gospel. About half the class answered 90% of the questions. All did well.

VI. *Arithmetic*.—Class D. (13 seniors and 15 juniors).—The definitions were accurately learned and well understood. The simple or fundamental rules had been pretty thoroughly mastered. Many problems were given in illustration of them and as tests of knowledge, and were solved rapidly and generally with accuracy. The order and tone were also satisfactory. The seniors made an average of 82%.

VII. *Geography*.—Class C. (14 in the class).—They knew the definitions well, also the boundaries of Canada, Ontario, etc., possessed a satisfactory knowledge of the provinces and districts of the Dominion, could trace the principal railroads and locate the principal cities and towns thereon, also the principal rivers. The examination was very satisfactory, and resulted in an average of 77%.

VIII. *Natural History*.—(A class of 18) Limits: Land Animals and Birds.—The plan of examination is to call up, in turn, the individual members of the class, to present each with a specimen. This he or she (the class is a mixed one) proceeds to describe, giving size, shape, covering, dental apparatus, nature of food, habits, habitat, where found, use, general character, etc. The pupils had an accurate knowledge of eleven varieties.

Mrs. Murray's Classes.

I. *Domestic Science, Cooking Class*.—This class had consisted of six young women, but one had left before the examination. The kitchen was a model of neatness, the shelves nicely papered, the different utensils spotless and neatly arranged, the tables and floor scrubbed until they were white—all the work of the girls themselves. The cooking is done with a gas range, and consists of baking, roasting, etc. The girls, in turn, described their methods of roasting beef, baking plain cakes, boiling potatoes, some of which they prepared to show their skill. They are very neatly attired in caps and aprons, and are certainly learning what they will require to practice. They are naturally very proud of their work.

II. *Reading*.—Class D. The children in this class are in all stages of the subject from the letter card up to a primer. Everything, of course, depends upon the manner in which the first principles are taught, and an examiner is struck with the skill displayed in getting a child, by almost an infinite number of plans, to know "a" from "o" or "c" from "e." Much good teaching has been done, and the progress of the pupils is very evident; indeed, very remarkable.

III. *Arithmetic*.—Class E. The children in this class are nearly all in the reading class described above, and are in the same different stages of advancement, from the child that connts 20 to the child that has got into the multiplication table and can apply it. There is some difficulty in examining very young children in arithmetic, bnt we are quite satisfied substantial progress has been made and that the first principles of nnmber have been well taught. Mrs. Murray's work, in all departments, exhibits good control and excellent results.

IV. *Kindergarten*.—There were 16 children present. The usnal work of the kindergarten was proceeded with—sewing, weaving, folding, moulding in clay, action songs and singing of some selections. We consider the introduction of the kindergarten system into the education of the blind most fortunate. Their idea of form and size are thus very mnch improved, especially in this time when, for example, a boy builds a church with his blocks, he gets an idea of the thing that no other plan could so well give him.

Additional Classes.

Miss Haycock has a Bible class of 9 pupils. These were examined pretty thoronghly in Scriptnre history and answered very intelligently. Miss Moore has also a class of 15 in the same subject, which was examined with very similar results.

Respectfully submitted.

M. J. Kelly,
Wm. Wilkinson, } *Examiners.*

Brantford, July 12th, 1899.

REPORT OF THE MUSICAL EXAMINER.

To Dr. T. F. Chamberlain,
Inspector of Charities, Toronto.

Sir,—I have again the honor of submitting to you a favorable report of the Music Department in the Ontario Institution for the Blind.

Considerable changes in both teachers and pupils have taken place, but losses have been replaced, and the general standard of position and progress has been well maintained. Mr. Burt has satisfactorily filled the place of Mr. Morris, who resigned his position at the end of last year's session, and Miss Cromptom that of Mrs. Plewes, while Miss Moore continnes to occnpy the position she has ably filled for many years, these three constituting the present musical staff.

The organ class, numbering 5, under the charge of Mr. Burt, has apparently snffered most loss, there being fewer advanced pupils than in other years; bnt these fluctuations are unavoidable, and as the younger players progress, these losses are soon snpplied.

The vocal class, nnmbering about 40, is also under the tnition of Mr. Burt, and though less numerous than in some other years, their work is as satisfactory. As usual the female voices are dominant.

The piano pupils number 53 and are divided among the three teachers, and considering how little time can be found for music study, the progress of many students has been very gratifying. It mnst be remembered that the Institntion is not a mere music school, but a school of general cnltnre, with music recognized as an important branch.

It shonld, however, be mentioned that two of its students have successfully passed the piano examination in the Toronto Conservatory of Music—one in the first year, and the other in the second, the latter passing with honors and intending to offer herself this year as a candidate in the final.

The Theory and Musical History Classes, numbering 11, are under the charge of Miss Moore, and it is to her credit that one of her pupils passed, in April last, his second examination for the degree of Mus. Bac. in Trinity College, and is now studying in the Conservatory for his final, while others are preparing to follow his example. How far exceptional advantages can be given to any proposing to follow music as a profession, must be determined by the exigencies of the school.

Tuning and repairing are still taught, and some past pupils are filling good positions in manufactories.

The chapel music continues to form a model of congregational singing, and forms an inspiring and appropriate preparation for the work of the day.

The recovery of the respected Principal from a severe illness is a matter of universal congratulation, and it is satisfactory to know that everything worked smoothly during his temporary absence.

As usual, I have to thank all with whom I have had any connection during my visit, for the courtesy and kindness experienced.

I am, yours respectfully,

R. S. AMBROSE.

Hamilton, June 12th, 1899.

Maintenance Expenditures

For the year ending 30th September, 1899, compared with the preceding year.

No.	Service.	Year ending 30th September, 1898.			Year ending 30th September, 1899.		
		Total expenditure, 1898.	Weekly cost per pupil.	Yearly cost per pupil.	Total expenditure, 1899.	Weekly cost per pupil.	Yearly cost per pupil.
		$ c.	c. m.	$ c.	$ c.	c. m.	$ c.
1	Medicines and medical comforts...	103 02	1 5	. 79	161 36	2 4	1 25
2	Butchers' meat, fish and fowls..	1,735 61	25 8	13 45	2,000 00	29 8	15 50
3	Flour, bread and biscuits..	672 56	10 .	5 21	596 54	8 8	4 62
4	Butter and lard	956 58	14 2	7 43	1,038 81	12 5	8 05
5	General groceries	1,398 16	20 8	10 83	1,430 28	21 3	11 08
6	Fruit and vegetables..	355 73	5 2	2 75	331 49	4 8	2 53
7	Bedding, clothing and shoes	574 84	8 5	4 45	623 20	9 2	4 83
8	Fuel—wood, coal and gas	2,664 33	39 7	20 65	2,655 85	39 5	20 58
9	Light—electric and gas	884 10	13 1	6 83	885 20	13 1	6 84
10	Laundry, soap and cleaning	319 44	4 7	2 47	338 31	5 .	2 62
11	Furniture and furnishings	522 18	7 7	4 04	379 54	5 6	2 94
12	Farm and garden, feed and fodder.	641 95	9 5	4 97	619 21	9 2	4 80
13	Repairs and alterations	1,033 90	15 3	8 01	769 61	11 4	5 96
14	Advertising, printing, stationery and postage	757 45	11 2	5 87	648 32	9 6	5 02
15	Books, apparatus and appliances...	1,069 75	15 7	8 21	880 60	13 1	6 82
16	Miscellaneous	1,639 88	24 4	12 71	1,379 49	20 5	10 69
17	Pupils' sittings at churches	248 00	3 6	1 92	252 00	3 7	1 95
18	Rent of water hydrants	160 00	2 3	1 24	160 00	2 3	1 24
19	Extra water supply	67 19	. 9	. 50	40 67	. 6	. 32
20	Salaries and wages	17,782 48	265 0	137 84	17,346 68	261 .	135 72
	Totals	33,589 15	500 7	260 38	32,537 26	485 .	252 22

Average number of pupils in 1898—129.
Average number of pupils in 1899—129.